

# ANARCHIST AGE



# WEEKLY REVIEW

An Anarchist Society is a voluntary non-hierarchical society based on the creation of social and political structures which allow all people equal decision making power and equal access to society's wealth.  
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....."COMMUNALISATION - The Transfer of Power & Wealth"

from the Hands of the Private Sector & the State, Into the Hands of the Community" .....

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## "WE SWEAR BY THE SOUTHERN CROSS TO STAND TRULY BY EACH OTHER & FIGHT TO DEFEND OUR RIGHTS & LIBERTIES"- EUREKA REBELLION OATH 1854

### ONE SMALL STEP TOWARDS WORLD PEACE

The imminent laying of genocide charges against Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court at the Hague is one small step towards world peace. World leaders have for far too long enjoyed immunity from prosecution. Idi Amin spent a comfortable retirement with his nineteen wives in Saudi Arabia after he was overthrown. George Bush Junior looks set to enjoy a comfortable retirement at his Texas Ranch despite his personal responsibility for war crimes that have resulted in the unnecessary deaths of hundreds of thousands of people. Henry Kissinger enjoys his role as an elder statesman despite his role in the war that engulfed Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia that resulted in the deaths of over six million people. The butcher Suharto enjoyed a comfortable retirement in Indonesia. Mugabe is organising his retirement while the Putins, Howards and Blairs of the world continue to receive international accolades.

Heads of state and heads of government declare war on their own people and their neighbours confident in the knowledge they will never have to justify their brutality in a court of law. They are emboldened by the knowledge the nation state will protect them once they have stepped down from office. The increasing influence the International Criminal Court is able to exercise on the world stage is sending a message to world leaders who are beginning to realise they will no longer be able to evade justice. Genocide and war crimes are offences that have no time limit. A change of government, an overseas trip could see those leaders accused of genocide and war crimes finding themselves cooling their heels in the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

Once world leaders and their inner circle realise that no matter how powerful they may think they are, they will eventually be called to account for their actions, they will think twice about what they are doing. Already so called "respected" former world leaders are very careful about where they travel to just in case the ever increasing reach of the International Criminal Court ensnares them and makes them pay for their crimes against humanity.

### BUYER BEWARE

The Sunday Age's articles about the Hope clinic raise questions about how far the state should intervene in the relationship between a patient and a therapist. Adults in much of Australia have the right to refuse treatment,

but don't have the right to euthanasia. Currently they have the right to access treatment that has little, if any, scientific basis. We need to remember science and registration alone doesn't ensure health problems people encounter will be addressed competently and satisfactorily.

The problems raised in the Sunday Age will not be addressed by registering alternative practitioners. Clinics will continue to spring up despite registration of practitioners offering unbelievable cures at unbelievable prices to the desperate, the vulnerable and the gullible. In order to protect people from themselves and still give them the opportunity to access alternative treatment, a new body outside the Health Services Commissioners office should be established that has the power to investigate the behaviour of practitioners who do not belong to state registered bodies. Any clinic offering alternative treatments by non-registered practitioners should be compelled to publicly list all fees and must enter into a written contract with all patients who outlay more than a thousand dollars in a twelve month period. The contract would list the personal guarantees made by the therapist and the clinic regarding treatment outcomes.

Clinics that refuse to comply would be closed down and those clinics who have complaints lodged against them could be investigated on the basis of the written guarantees they gave to the client about their treatment. People would still have the right to access alternative treatments by non-registered practitioners but they would also be protected from those who exploit the vulnerable and the desperate for purely financial gain.

### CHARADE

What's the point of going on with the charade that we live in a free enterprise society. We don't live in a free enterprise society, we live in a society where the profits are privatised and the losses are socialised. Nothing demonstrates this more than the current taxpayer funded bailout of the corporately owned private banking sector. In Australia, the Federal government's Future Fund and the Reserve Bank have propped up and continue to prop up the private banks. The Future Fund which was established by the government to invest in the stockmarket currently has 35 billion dollars sitting in the coffers of the privately owned banks. The Reserve Bank has provided the private banks with 21 billion dollars of taxpayers money to temporarily prop them up during the current liquidity crisis.

Banks raise their money by selling off mortgage loans to other financial institutions as securities, customer deposits and borrowing on financial markets. The U.S. subprime crisis has virtually wiped out the securities market as financial institutions once bitten, are twice shy about accepting what at first seemed like gilt edged subprime securities that turned out to be subprime duds. The Reserve Bank and the Future Fund are responsible for about 10% of all deposits currently held in Australian banks. Over one third of deposits that have been deposited in private banks in Australia since the U.S. subprime debacle surfaced have been due to Future Fund and Reserve Bank deposits.

Faced with an international financial sector that is asking for a premium to borrow money. Some of Australia's big four banks are paying over 10% to borrow money from overseas, without the input of the Reserve Bank and the Future Fund, interest rates would be closer to 15% than the current 10%. This would send the Australian economy into a tail spin. Considering the dependency of the private sector on taxpayer funds, it is time the private financial sector, including the banks, were nationalised. At least if they were nationalised the public would be able to exert real pressure on the government regarding increases in interest rates, depositors funds would enjoy a government guarantee and most importantly of all, Australians would enjoy the good times when they occurred and wouldn't have to bankroll private investors every time their avaricious attitudes got them into difficulty and made life miserable for the rest of us.

### WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

If I put Adam and Eve in a shipping container, give them a pile of food to eat and a few tools to make their life comfortable, if Adam doesn't shoot blanks and Eve's shooting eggs down her Fallopian tubes, the shipping container will soon be crowded with Adams and Eves eating up all the food and soiling the container with their waste products. Before we know it, despite the best efforts of men and mice to keep the show going everything in the container will die.

So why do so many people refuse to believe that global warming is real? Every day trolley loads of "experts", bigots and United States Presidents tell us global warming is a figment of our imagination. "It doesn't exist", "The scientists are wrong", "it's just part of the environmental cycle", "We don't have to do anything about it", "It will go away". Even those who believe it is real will tell us we

can't do anything to "harm" economic growth, it's business as usual global warming or no global warming.

Let's extend our little Adam and Eve shipping container analogy to the real world. Whether we like it or not the chances of a billion, let alone one hundred people going off to live the life of Riley on Mars is not likely to happen now or in the next ten thousand years. This means we're all packed into a shipping container called planet earth. At last count the world's population was 6.5 billion people, and growing. Within another decade we'll be pushing 7.5 billion, so Adam and Eve are begetting at a very rapid pace. That pile of food in the shipping container is disappearing with all those hungry mouths to feed. All the waste products from the new fangled tools that are being used on planet earth aren't going away, that pile is growing bigger and bigger and bigger.

So what's the problem? The facts are there for everybody to see. You don't need to be a Rhode Scholar to know the problem is real and needs to be addressed urgently. The solution to the problem is simple, very very simple. Everybody knows the elephant tearing up the living room is capitalism, an economic system based on the creation of ever increasing costs irrespective of the human, social, cultural and environmental costs. You know it, I know it even they know it. Isn't it about time we all did something about it?

#### WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

The newspaper blares out Choice magazine has discovered transnational pharmaceutical corporations, advertise newer more expensive anti hypertensive (blood pressure) drugs to doctors. Choice foams at the mouth at the drug company's dastardly behaviour. Isn't it time we grew up and publicly talked about the type of society we have allowed ourselves to become. It seems through our indifference and greed we have allowed corporate and state capitalism to dominate the world economy.

Capitalism, whether it's privately controlled or controlled by the state needs to create ever increasing profits irrespective of the human, social and environmental costs. To do otherwise is economic madness. Companies that don't create ever increasing profits go bankrupt in a capitalist society. Why would anybody be surprised that corporations within a capitalist society promote products that increase their bottom line at the expense of a cheaper product that does the same or a better job.

Over the past few decades governments have pulled out all stops to allow the corporate world to dominate the world economy. Privatisation and de-regulation are the cudgels that have been used to destroy collectives, co-operatives and mutual societies alternative economic systems that have existed in many communities for centuries. We either continue to support an economy that attempts to satisfy manufactured needs to maximise profits and we put up with the consequences of global warming or we create and support an economic system that is designed to satisfy real human needs.

You can't have it both ways. Public crocodile tears about corporations manipulating the market place to increase their profits, doesn't really change much. We all know that making profits is the name of the corporate game. Isn't it about time we had a debate about the nature of the economic system that has driven us to the abyss. Instead of carrying on about the

symptoms, it's about time we started to discuss the cure. If we don't the economic cancer that is rapidly enveloping the planet will not be able to be halted, let alone cured.

#### ANARCHIST QUESTION AND ANSWER

##### Q. Why would anyone in an anarchist community want to take care of communal property?

A. Ownership in an anarchist society is determined by need and use. Why would anyone want to trash the place where they live? Why would anyone want to trash communal property? Private property is king in a capitalist society, state property belongs to the state, the state giveth and the state taketh away. Property in an anarchist society remains the property of the person using it while they continue to use it. Once they no longer have a need for it, it reverts back into communal property. That doesn't mean that one person has exclusive use of more than they can use at any one time. Ownership is strictly determined by need and use. Property cannot be sold or inherited, once the people who use the property move on its ownership reverts back to the community.

The unique private/communal arrangements that exist in an anarchist community ensures that most people will take care of what they have. Knowing that if they destroy what they have it may be difficult, very difficult for them to access another property, as they will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list for another property, will have an impact on people's behaviour.

The same relationship that people have with property in an anarchist society is extended to both goods and services. Need determines access to goods and services, those who attempt to exploit the system will find themselves at the bottom of the waiting list for non-essential goods and services. People would not exploit the system because once they exploit the system they will find they still have access to bread but lose access to the cream and jam. The protection of communal property is guaranteed through the introduction of schemes that reward those who use and take care of the communal property they are using and penalises those who damage and destroy communal property, goods and services.

Next week - Who decides what is a human need in an anarchist society?

#### ACTION BOX

##### AUDACITY!!



Anarchists have two recognised symbols. The black flag and the ☰. The black flag was adopted by the anarchist movement around the time of the Paris

Commune in 1871. The ☰ is a more modern symbol which most likely originated in Milan in Italy in the early 1960's. Movements need symbols to create a visible presence in society. Very few symbols stand the test of time, symbols that were universal centuries ago can mean nothing today. The Christian cross, the Muslim crescent and the Golden Arches are symbols that have stood the test of time.

It's audacious for an individual to think they can come up with a new symbol to denote anarchism. A few years ago I attempted to come up with a universal symbol for anarchism as I believed the old symbols did not reflect the length and breadth of anarchist thought. If you look at the bottom of the Weekly Review you'll see a row of ☰ at the bottom of the last page. I attempted to design a universal sign for anarchism which unfortunately didn't quite make the grade. Today I feel audacious enough to try again

expanding the original meaning of the ☰ symbol. The first thing about any symbol is that it must be easy to replicate. The success of the ☰ is to a large degree due to its ability to be easily applied to walls etc. The ☰ symbol can be easily and quickly applied to any surface. So it can be easily replicated and applied to any

surface, but what does ☰ have to do with anarchism? Here goes:

☐ looks like a bird flying – it denotes freedom

☐ looks like two people holding hands – it denotes co-operation

☐ looks like a bowl – resources held in common

☐ the symbols are green – denoting a sustainable economy

☐ denotes freedom, co-operation, common ownership and a sustainable economy, the very essence of anarchism.

So we have a new symbol. If you like it and you think it could be useful, well and good. If you think it's a stupid idea, that's your opinion. In order to get the symbol into the public arena I need 100 people to pledge to buy a black t-shirt with the symbol.

Why a hundred people? I can get a good deal if I buy 100 t-shirts with the symbol applied to them. If you're interested and you have 20 dollars to burn, register your

interest by posting your request to PO Box 20 PARKVILLE 3052 AUSTRALIA or email your interest to [anarchistage@yahoo.com](mailto:anarchistage@yahoo.com)

Give us your size S, M, L, XL, XXL, when you register your interest. It may take a few months to receive 100 pledges. When we've received the pledges I'll put in the order and contact you. The twenty dollar pledge includes postage anywhere in Australia and New Zealand. Overseas orders negotiable. That doesn't mean you can't use the symbol now. If you like it use it today, the more people who see it, the more questions will be raised in people's minds.

#### AUSTRALIAN RADICAL HISTORY

##### THE EUREKA SERIES 2008 NO. 10 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE "RED RIBBON REBELLION" – PART TWO

Eight days later on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1853, over 20,000 diggers attended a meeting at hospital Hill, the diggers vowed to only pay a ten shilling per month license fee. The Gold Commissioner concerned about the growing level of agitation on the Bendigo goldfields, promised a diggers delegation that he would send a messenger to LaTrobe telling him about the diggers resolution. At a mass meeting held six days later on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1853 the diggers began wearing a red (the colour of the European revolutionary movement) ribbon on their hats to signify their defiance of the law. The diggers came armed to the meeting showing they meant business if the government did not take their demands seriously. LaTrobe's intransigence to the diggers peaceful overtures was pushing them into taking direct action. The increasingly frustrated diggers stripped every tea chest on the Bendigo goldfields of its lead linings and turned the lead into ammunition that they were willing to use against the government if provoked.

Nine out of ten diggers wore the red ribbon, red ribbons flapped from every tent pole, were festooned around dogs necks and fluttered from shop fronts. Red shirts, underpants and garments were cut up to try to sate the public demand for red ribbons. LaTrobe's Chief Police Commissioner had come to Bendigo to observe the Red Ribbon agitation. He became so alarmed at what he saw, he rushed back to Melbourne to tell LaTrobe "*Bendigo was in a state of revolution and that if the license fee was not reduced or if an attempt to enforce it was made, it would end in blood shed*"

LaTrobe sent the remainder of the 40<sup>th</sup> regiment to the Bendigo goldfields increasing the number of troops in Bendigo to 300. Only 400 diggers paid their license fee in September (14,000 licenses had been sold in August). LaTrobe, knowing he didn't have the military might to enforce the government's demands, called a special meeting of the squatter dominated Legislative Council

arguing that the license fee be abolished and be replaced with a royalty on gold. The Legislative Council, trying to buy time, agreed that the September fee be cancelled and established a Committee of inquiry to look into the diggers grievances. LaTrobe, concerned about the situation, wrote to the other colonies requesting military support. The 99<sup>th</sup> regiment stationed in Van Diemen's Land was sent to Victoria to help LaTrobe quell the revolt on the goldfields.

A new Act to manage the disturbances on the goldfields was passed in November 1853. The new act streamlined the license fee. Diggers could take out a one month license fee for a pound, three months for two pounds, six months for four pounds and twelve months for eight pounds. Diggers who took out a 12 month license fee were granted the vote. Police could not arrest diggers who had refused to buy a license, only the gold commissioner or his agents could make such arrests, but they could arrest diggers they suspected of being without a license. The old "sport" of digger hunting by the "Joes" (police) still continued on the goldfields.

Two of the leading agitators on the goldfields, realising the government was on the back foot, established the Gold Diggers Advocate on the Bendigo goldfields to promote political reform. They used the French revolutionary slogan *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity* as the new newspapers masthead.

In December 1853 the Diggers Congress Movement was established to agitate for radical political reform as well as the abolition of the gold license fee. The scene was set for a titanic struggle between the squatter dominated Legislative Council that needed the license fee to be imposed on diggers to stop workers leaving their stations to try their luck on the goldfields and the new migrants from around the world, many of them political refugees who had lived through and participated in revolutionary activities, who had come to Australia to forge a new life in a new land, free from the arbitrary exercise of state power.

Source material for article

EUREKA STOCKADE - A Pictorial History  
Geoff Hocking Publisher Five Mile Press, 2004  
1 Centre Road, Scoresby VIC 3179, AUSTRALIA  
Tel: +61 3 8756 5500 Email: [publishing@fivemile.com.au](mailto:publishing@fivemile.com.au)



## BOOK REVIEW



**'SALVADOR PUIG ANTICH and the MIL  
(Movimiento Iberico de Liberacion)'**  
Edited by Anna Key, Translated by Paul Sharkey  
Publisher Kate Sharpley Library 2008  
ISBN 13:9781873605448 Anarchist Sources #8

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1974 Salvador Puig Antich was garrotted in the Modelo Prison in Barcelona, Spain. An anarchist and a member of the Movimiento Iberico de Liberacion. Garroting (strangulation), a medieval form of execution was used by the Franco regime to instill fear in the Spanish people.

In 1970 the Franco had lost all credibility in Europe. Spain Europe's sick man lurched from disaster to disaster. Internally resistance was growing everyday. In 1970 anarchists, left communists and revolutionaries coalesced into the MIL. The MIL split into a theoretical and a practical group. Born in Barcelona in 1948, Salvador was drawn into the MIL acting as a car driver for comrades who robbed banks to fund the movements revolutionary activities.

Puig Antich and Xavier Garriga were caught in a doorway in a street in Barcelona. In the ensuing struggle Puig Antich was shot in the head and shoulder and a police officer, Anguas Barragan was killed. On the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1973 ETA (the Basque separatist movement) shot dead Franco's hand picked successor Carrero Blanco. Franco, hell bent on revenge wishing to send a signal to the world that his regime was still in control,

personally ordered the execution. Salvador Puig Antich was garrotted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1974 in Barcelona on the same day a young polish man, Heinz Chez, was garrotted in Tarragona.

The thirty six page pamphlet published by the Kate Sharpley Library about these events examines the background to the events that led to Puig Antich's execution and examines the attempts thirty years later to rehabilitate his memory in a movement that has swept Spain to reclaim the historical memory that had been suppressed by the Franco dictatorship and continued to be suppressed by the parliamentary governments that followed him.

The booklet ends with an article by a former MIL militant titled The Great Swindle : "This is not the Tale of Salvador Puig Antich" published in 2004 which bemoans the lies, distortions and half truth that appeared in a movie about the MIL and Salvador Puig Antich's life and execution that was screened in Spain. It seems everyone wants a piece of Puig Antich's memory, picking and choosing what best fits into their current political concerns. No one except his former comrades want to hear he was an anti capitalist, an anti authoritarian and a revolutionary.

The Kate Sharpley Library have, through publishing a series of articles mainly from the anarchist press about the MIL and Salvador Puig Antich that have been published since 1974, have successfully shown what made Salvador Puig Antich tick. As the 26 year old Salvador wrote to his brother on the eve of his execution when he defended his anti-capitalist views - *"and now in this moment of truth, my belief in what I fought for is stronger than ever."*

If you want to get hold of this insightful, exciting pamphlet contact the publishers - Kate Sharpley Library  
BM Hurricane, LONDON WC1N 3XX , ENGLAND  
[www.katesharpleylibrary.net](http://www.katesharpleylibrary.net)

While you're at it why don't you ask them about the 8 Anarchist Sources pamphlets they have published to date. They make interesting reading.

## PERSONAL OBSERVATION

I have a confession to make. I've been paying close, very close attention to a pumpkin vine over the past seven or eight months. The story began simply enough. I was given three seeds a year or two ago, put them away, forgot about them then stumbled across them. Eventually I put them in a seed grower. In case you're city born and bred and don't know milk comes from cows, a seed grower is a relatively simple but powerful piece of technology. Anything that gives life a head start needs to be cherished. A seed grower is basically a plastic box with a few holes cut out in the bottom that's divided into lots of little compartments which you fill with dirt. You plant your seeds normally one to each compartment, water them and put a piece of hard plastic with two vents cut into it to create a technological marvel, a seed incubator. So far, so good. Over the next few weeks all three seeds sprouted, soon they were too big for their old home and required to be transplanted. I found three spots for them in the front garden, put them in, bedded them down, watered them and waited. One was dead within days, a meal for a few slugs. Another struggled for a month or two but never took off, dying by the time it reached a foot.

The other which I planted under a massive rose bush, grabbed life with two hands and grew and grew and grew eventually producing heaps of flowers, but no pumpkins. A visitor's front side car window became entangled in the pumpkin foliage, breaking it, leaving a stump of about two meters. I felt a pang of regret about the pumpkin's fate as a few weeks later I removed the dead leaves off the rose bush.

It was mid autumn by now, I didn't think much about my old friend until I saw it was putting out new shoots and flowers. Growing to about 4-5 meters, it produced a few flowers but nothing else happened. With the approach of

one of the coldest winters we've experienced in over a decade, I expected it would all soon be over for the pumpkin plant. It struggled in June and held its ground until the 10<sup>th</sup> July when the cold finally turned the tide in the pumpkin's struggle for survival.

Among the shrivelled leaves that were left is a fresh flower or two. I don't think it's given up yet. I was going to pull out the plant, but today decided it's fought so hard for survival it deserves to run its own race. I'll wait for the sun to reappear and see what happens. It may grow back, it may finally accept its fate or it may reach its used by date and die before it reaches its full potential, failing to complete the circle of life. There must be one or two biblical analogies in this titanic struggle about life and death in a very very small corner of the universe. I let you figure it out.

## STOP PRESS

### I CAN'T BELIEVE IT

What I'm going to mention doesn't seem to be earth shattering at first sight but when you have a closer look at what's happening it will have a major impact on individuals and society. Sometimes when I'm in a hurry I push a trolley down a supermarket aisle, picking up this and that. I hadn't been to the supermarket for about six weeks and didn't see anything out of the ordinary, until I arrived at the checkout. While looking for an empty checkout I stumbled across the self-scanning, self-packing, self-paying line up. I couldn't believe all those people were patiently waiting to scan their own goods, pack them and pay for them while the folk who continued to use the traditional checkout, left twice as quickly. I don't understand why anybody would want to scan their own products, pack them and pay for them. It doesn't make sense if a better alternative exists. Supermarket jobs aren't great jobs, but they do give a lot of people an opportunity to make some money. Why line up to scan the goods you bought and steal somebody's job.

Why let the two major supermarkets who already control over 80% of food sales in Australia, put people out of work. Why would you waste your time scanning your own goods when somebody can do it twice as fast as you can. Maybe I'm just old fashioned but it annoys me every time some corporation interferes with the interaction that occurs between human beings as they go about their business. I'm sick and tired of talking to computers and being forced to interact with machines to access the most basic services, so the majority shareholders of some unaccountable corporation can make a buck at my expense.

I find it incomprehensible that people are ready, willing and able to fall in behind the corporate world's plans to dehumanise us so they can squeeze a few more bucks out of us. I know it's not earth shattering news, but when you multiply what is happening in one supermarket across the country it must erode what little interaction currently exists in the community. I'm afraid a society where the normal human interaction that exists in a simple commercial transaction is deemed to be bad for business, is not the type of society I want to be part of.

Joseph TOSCANO /

Libertarian Workers For A Self-Managed Society.

## POEM – Stephen Roberts

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Affordable Housing a laudable aim

At present, not a tenable claim

Dominant tax break – negative gearing

Public Housing so far no steering

Public Housing a worthwhile solution

Negating negative gearing provides a win win situation

Then Investing in Housing no better than shares

Owner occupiers will control the market with their cares

Gigantic rises in Houses/Rents will ease

Low Income players will be finally pleased.

## ANARCHIST PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED THIS WEEK

